
By: **Delegates Boutin, Cane, Glassman, McComas, O'Donnell, Owings, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2003
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations
Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, February 27, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 21, 2003

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Hunting Wild Waterfowl - Susquehanna Flats**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain distances that a person must be from shore when
4 hunting wild waterfowl in the Susquehanna Flats while the person is standing
5 in water on the natural bottom, in a boat that is drifting or being sculled, or in
6 a boat that is anchored; and generally relating to hunting wild waterfowl in the
7 Susquehanna Flats.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 10-604 through 10-606
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-604.

17 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
18 bottom only in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, the nontidal waters of the
19 Potomac River, and in other waters of the State in areas and on days the Department
20 prescribes by regulation.

1 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
2 bottom at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

3 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
4 bottom shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind
5 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

6 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the
7 natural bottom shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at
8 mean low water except in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF
9 THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, or while hunting at a licensed stationary blind or blind
10 site.

11 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
12 WILD WATERFOWL WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM SHALL
13 BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW
14 WATER.

15 (e) A person may not hunt wild waterfowl while standing in State waters on
16 the natural bottom when the natural bottom is privately owned, unless the hunter
17 has the written permission of the landowner.

18 (f) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not
19 hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural bottom unless
20 accompanied by a Maryland resident.

21 10-605.

22 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being
23 sculled, only in:

24 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River, Conococheague Creek, and
25 the Monocacy River;

26 (2) The Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of the Sassafra
27 River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

28 (3) Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight, Assawoman Bay,
29 and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

30 (4) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

31 (b) While hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being sculled,
32 a person shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind
33 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

34 (c) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being
35 sculled shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low
36 water except in the nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE
37 SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, in Conococheague Creek, and in the Monocacy River.

1 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
2 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS DRIFTING OR BEING SCULLED SHALL BE
3 AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW
4 WATER.

5 (d) A nonresident may not hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or
6 being sculled unless accompanied by a Maryland resident.

7 10-606.

8 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored only in:

9 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River;

10 (2) The waters of the Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of
11 the SassafRAS River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

12 (3) The waters of Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight,
13 Assawoman Bay, and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

14 (4) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

15 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored at a
16 licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

17 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall remain
18 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or another person hunting
19 wild waterfowl offshore.

20 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall
21 be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water except
22 in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA
23 FLATS, or unless anchored at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

24 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
25 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS ANCHORED SHALL BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS
26 FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW WATER.

27 (e) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not
28 hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored unless accompanied by a Maryland
29 resident.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
31 effect October 1, 2003.

